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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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FROM COLEBAUGH

1. QUANG TRI CA ELECTION CAMPAIGN WELL UNDERWAY WITH FAIRLY ACTIVE SPEAKING PROGRAM. CANDIDATES TRAVEL TOGETHER AND IN ANY ONE SPEAKING PROGRAM EACH LIST IS GIVEN ONE HOUR SPEAKING TIME.

2. SPEAKING PROGRAM KICKED OFF AUGUST 26 WHEN CANDIDATES SPOKE TO CROWD OF ABOUT 1,000 IN MAIN THEATER IN QUANG TRI CITY. AUGUST 27 SPOKE TO CROWD OF ABOUT 2,000 IN MAI LINH DISTRICT TOWN. AUGUST 29 SPOKE IN TWO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN HAI LANG DISTRICT EACH TIME TO CROWD OF ABOUT 500. AUGUST 31 SPOKE IN CAM LO DISTRICT TOWN IN MORNING AND DONG HA CITY, ALSO IN CAM LO DISTRICT, IN AFTERNOON. BOTH CROWDS ABOUT 500 PEOPLE. SEPTEMBER 1 IN MORNING

SPOKE IN TRUNG LUONG DISTRICT (DMZ) AND IN AFTERNOON IN GIO LINH DISTRICT. CROWDS OF ABOUT 500. SEPTEMBER 2 SCHEDULED TO SPEAK IN TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT TOWN IN MORNING AND IN AFTERNOON AT HAI PHU IN LA VANG. (THIS SITE ABOUT 5KM FROM QUANG TRI SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE LARGE NUMBER ARVN TROOPS AND DEPENDENTS LOCATED THERE). AFTER SEPTEMBER 2 TO BE NO MORE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS. EACH OF ABOVE SITES CHOSEN FOR SPEECHES PARTICULARLY BECAUSE STRUGGLE WAS STRONGEST IN THESE AREAS.

3. IN ADDITION TO SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND PRINTED PROPAGANDA VIS QUANG TRI ALSO TAPING SPEECHES AND BROADCASTING EXERPTS OVER VIS LOUD SPEAKER NETWORK AND VIS SOUND TRUCKS IN QUANG TRI CITY. QUANG TRI HAS NO RADIO STATION AND DOES NOT RECEIVE RADIO HUE. ALSO

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PROVINCE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER QUANG TRI, WHICH HAS A NORMAL CIRCULATION OF 7,500 IS BEING SUPPORTED BY JUSPAO IN PRINTING 10,000 EXTRA COPIES (TOTAL 17,500) OF ISSUE NUMBER 8, THE ELECTION ISSUE WHICH WILL INCLUDE MORE INFO ABOUT CANDIDATES AND ABOUT ELECTION IN GENERAL.

4. CURRENTLY VIS CONDUCTING A SURVEY AT TWO MAIN GATES INTO QUANG TRI CITY IN ATTEMPT DETERMINE HOW MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT ELECTIONS. APPARENTLY IF RESULTS UNSATISFACTORY WILL LAUNCH MORE EDUCATIONAL TALKS OF ELECTIONS.
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III MAF PASS INFO 112 TO POLAD FRANCIS

FROM COLEBAUGH

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS BY THUA THIEN SECTOR ADVISOR REGARDING SECTOR AND REGIONAL FORCE (RF)/POPULAR FORCE(PF) POLITICAL RELIABILITY AND STANCE VIS-A-VIS NCA ELECTIONS SEPTEMBER 11:

SECTOR

2. THE PROVINCE CHIEF/SECTOR COMMANDER LT. COL. PHAN VAN KHOA AND HIS STAFF WERE SOLIDLY PRO-GVN AND WERE PRIMARY FORCE TOWARDS MAINTENANCE OF GVN CONTROL IN PROVINCE. ALONG WITH LOYAL PRO-GVN DISTRICT CHIEFS, RF/PF FORCES AND RD CADRE, SECTOR COMMANDER AND STAFF SUCCESSFULLY RETAINED CONTROL OF RURAL AREAS AND ISOLATED HUE CITY. IN SPITE OF THIS STANCE,

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 180HH C O N F I D E N T I A L
PROVINCE CHIEF DID NOT REWARD THESE SUPPORTERS IN ANY WAY. (NOE: ONLY APPARENT REWARD WAS QUANG DIEN DISTRICT CHIEF LT. NGUYEN QUANG ANH'S PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN WHICH DID NOT ORIGINATE WITH PROVINCE CHIEF.)

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3. AS A RESULT IT APPEARS TO THESE PEOPLE THAT NEUTRAL AND PRO-STRUGGLE ARVN 1ST DIVISION OFFICERS RECEIVED NO PUNISHMENT FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY AND CAME OUT OF CRISIS ON A PAR WITH THOSE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS WHO RISKED LIVES, FAMILIES AND PROPERTY. AS RESULT ARE SOME DISGRUNTLED SECTOR STAFF OFFICERS AND DISTRICT CHIEFS. CAPT. NGUYEN HUU DE (HUONG TRA), WHO HAD HOUSES IN HUE SACKED AND BURNED, AND CAPT. DANG UYNH (HUONG DIEN) HAVE ASKED FOR TRANSFERS AND MOST FEEL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN BETRAYED. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT DISTRICT CHIEFS WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT PROVINCE CHIEF IN EVENTOF ANOTHER POLITICAL CRISIS. INDIVIDUALS MOVED STRONGLY SUPPORT ANY ANTI-VC ACTION.

RF/PF

4. BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER RECENT STRUGGLE RF/PF HAVE BEEN LOYAL TO DISTRICT, PROVINCE AND GVN WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS: ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRICT SUPPORT LOGISTICS COMPANY (A&DSL CO) AND LONG THO TRAINING CENTER. COMMANDERS OF THESE TWO UNITS HAVE BEEN REPLACED,

BUT COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF ALL LOWER RANKS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY HAS NOT BEEN DONE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE DEFECTIONS WERE BLAMED ON FORMER COMMANDERS, BUDDHIST, AND THE STRONG PERSONAL APPEAL OF THICH TRI QUANG AND THICH CHON KIM. SINCE THE STRUGGLE THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL ALIGNMENT IN THESE OR ANY OTHER RF/PF UNITS.

5. MAJORITY OF RF/PF UNITS WILL REMAIN LOYAL TO DISTRICT, PROVINCE, AND GVN IN THAT ORDER. LOYALTY GOES FIRST TO DISTRICT AND DISTRICT CHIEF. ALTHOUGH MANY DISTRICT CHIEFS ARE AFFILIATED WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO FACT THEY WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT GVN. RESUME OF DISTRICT CHIEFS POSITIONS DURING PAST POLITICAL CRISIS AND KNOWN POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS FOLLOWS:

A. CAPT DANG UYNH (HUONG DIEN) PRO-GVN VNQDD
B. CAPT BUI VAN THAP (PHONG DIEN) PRO-GVN PRO-VNQDD
C. CAPT NGUYEN QUANG ANH (QUANG DIEN) PRO-GVN VNQDD
D. CAPT NGUYEN HUU DE (HUONG TRA) PRO-GVN DAI VIET
E. CAPT NGUYEN VAN TU (PHU VANG) UNKNOWN UNKNOWN
F. 1/LT TRAN CONG NHUONG (NAM HOA) PRO-GVN DAI VIET
G. CAPT NGUYEN VAN TONG (HUONG THUY) PRO-GVN DAI VIET
H. CAPT NGUYEN DINH CAI (PHU THU) PRO-GVN PRO-VNQDD
I. CAPT NGUYEN VAN GIANG (VINH LOC) NEUTRAL DAI VIET

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PAGE 4 RUMJIR 180HH C O N F I D E N T I A L
J. CAPT TRINH CONG HAU (PHU LOC) INEFFECTIVE UNKNOWN

6. REMOVAL OF THICH TRI QUANG AND THICH CHON KIM, ARREST OF MAJOR STRUGGLE LEADERS AND PRESENCE OF SPECIAL POLICE HAVE TENDED TO INHIBIT INFLUENCE OF STRUGGLE GROUP. UNLESS SOME STRONG BUDDHIST LEADER APPEARS IN HUE, DISSIDENT RF/PF UNITS LIKE A&DSL COMPANY AND LONG THO TRAINING CENTER SHOULD REMAIN AT LEAST NEUTRAL AND OTHER RF/PF UNITS WILL REMAIN LOYAL TO GVN.

7 COMMENT: TOUCHSTONE FOR RF/PF IS DISTRICT CHIEF. AS INDICATED ABOVE MOST DISTRICT CHIEFS AFFILIATED WITH EITHER VNQDD OR DAI VIET PARTY AND WERE PRO-GVN DURING RECENT STRUGGLE. 1/LT NHUONG NOW IN NAM HOA WAS DEPUTY FOR SECURITY IN QUANG DIEN UNDER CAPTAIN ANH DURING STRUGGLE. ALTHOUGH LISTED AS DAI VIET ABOVE, MAY WELL BE VNQDD SYMPATHIZER INSTEAD. CAPT TU IS ALSO NEW SINCE STRUGGLE AND SO FAR HAS PLAYED NO ROLE. THE MAIN WEAKNESS IN RF/PF EFFECTIVENESS SEEMS TO CENTER ON LACK OF CONFIDENCE BY DISTRICT CHIEFS IN PROVINCE CHIEF KHOA. THEY COULD PROBABLY NOT BE EXPECTED TO RISK MUCH TO SUPPORT KHOA'S OR GVN'S AUTHORITY IN FACE OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE THOUGH THEY SEEM BASICALLY LOYAL TO GVN. A NEW, MORE ACCEPTABLE PROVINCE CHIEF WOULD PROBABLY ELIMINATE SITUATION.

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